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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6540

BILL NUMBER: SB 95

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 16, 2008

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Student Expression of Religious Viewpoints.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Lewis

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: *Nondiscrimination of Students For Religious Viewpoints-* The bill provides that a public school student may not be discriminated against for expressing a religious viewpoint in schoolwork or on otherwise permissible subjects. The bill also provides that students may form and advertise religion-based noncurricular groups in the same manner as other groups.

Adoption of School Policy- The bill requires a school corporation to adopt a policy establishing a limited public forum for students in which the students may express religious viewpoints.

Department of Education- The bill requires the Department of Education (DOE) to develop and make available to school corporations a model limited public forum policy.

Effective Date: July 1, 2009.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Department of Education-* The DOE would be required to examine policies adopted in other states and collect information when developing a model policy of limited public forum as directed by the bill. The bill does not make an appropriation. Therefore, the DOE would have to accomplish the requirements of the bill within their existing level of resources.

Background- The DOE has been appropriated \$5.6 M for FY 2009 for administrative functions, including a \$387,349 appropriation for research and development programs.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Adoption of School Policy-* School boards would be able to fit in the adoption of the required policy, under the bill, within their existing meeting schedules.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Education.

Local Agencies Affected: School corporations.

Information Sources: *State of Indiana List of Appropriations, July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2009.*

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